

CLAIMS

What is claimed to be new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. An apparatus for a ball and an animal leash for connecting to the collar of an animal in combination, comprising:
 - a) a spherical housing having a cavity therein, wherein said spherical housing forms a ball, said housing having an aperture therein, wherein said aperture is threaded;
 - b) a threaded cap disposed in said threaded aperture, wherein said threaded cap mates with said threaded aperture, said threaded cap having an inside surface and an outside surface;
 - c) a flap covering each said threaded aperture having means for attaching said flap to said spherical housing whereby the said flap may be opened and closed to allow access to the said threaded cap;
 - d) a leash disposed internal said spherical housing, said leash having first and second opposing ends, wherein said first end comprises a tether connecting said first end of said leash to said inside surface of said first threaded cap to permit said leash to be withdrawn from said cavity of said spherical housing when said threaded cap is removed from said threaded aperture, and wherein said

first end of said leash comprises a fastener for connection to the collar of an animal;

e) means for extendably retracting said leash from the cavity of the spherical housing whereby the leash can be automatically retracted after it is extended by removing the outward tension on the leash, wherein said second end of said leash is connected to said means for extendably retracting said leash; and,

f) means for gripping the exterior of the spherical housing comprised of a pair of spaced apart dimples having channels extending from the base of the dimples to the surface of the spherical housing.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising an exterior cover disposed about said spherical housing to protect the apparatus.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said exterior cover comprises an elastomeric material to protect the apparatus.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said exterior cover comprises a polymer material to protect the apparatus.

5. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said exterior cover comprises a plastic material to protect the apparatus.

6. The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said means for attaching said flap to said

spherical housing, comprises:

- a) wherein each of said flap has a first and a second opposing end, a pair of sides, and an inner and outer surface, wherein said first end of each said flap is disposed on a first side of said threaded aperture and said second end of each said flap is disposed on a second opposite side of said threaded aperture;
- b) a live hinge connecting each said first end of said flap to said first side of each said threaded aperture;
- c) wherein said second side of said threaded aperture has a recess therein, said recess having an outer surface thereon, wherein a first piece of hook and loop material is disposed on said outer surface of said recess; and,
- d) wherein a second piece of mating hook and loop material is disposed on said inner surface of each said second end of said flaps for mating attachment to said first piece of hook and loop material to permit said first and second flaps to be opened and closed.

7. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said fastener disposed on said first end of said leash further comprises a clasp to permit attachment to the collar of an animal.

8. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said means for extendably retracting said leash comprises:

- a) a center post being centrally disposed in said spherical housing; and,

b) a helical spring disposed on said center post, said spring having a first and second opposing end, wherein said first end of said spring is connected to said second end of said leash, wherein said second end of said spring is connected to said center post so that said leash can be withdrawn from said cavity by using outward tension and said leash will return to said cavity when the outward tension on said leash is removed.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8, further comprising a tab disposed on said outside surface of said threaded cap to permit a user to grasp and turn the threaded cap.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9, further comprising an indentation having a frictionous surface disposed on said outside surface of said threaded cap to permit a user to grasp and turn the threaded cap.